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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$2,359,450 TO RALLS COUNTY RECIPIENTS

On August 9th, U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof and Greg Branum, USDA Rural Development State Director for Missouri, presented RCEC Community Foundation and Public Water Supply District #1 of Ralls County, MO mock checks in the amount of \$540,000 and \$1,819,450, respectively.

The RCEC Community Foundation community facility loan funds will be used to construct a new 3800 square foot facility to house the Ralls County 911 Emergency dispatch center. This essential community facility will provide service to over 9500 residents in Ralls County. The facility is currently located in a single room provided by Ralls County Electric Cooperative.

"Our first-responders are asked to perform a variety of tasks, usually under very difficult circumstances," said Ninth District Congressman Kenny Hulshof. "It's imperative that they have the necessary tools and facilities to do the job. I am grateful for the work of USDA and I am pleased that they have supported these worthy projects."

The Ralls County PWSD #1 water facility loan funds will be utilized to repair, improve, replace, and install over 60 miles of water distribution lines to provide potable water service to over 6800 rural residents in Northeast Missouri. The existing lines are over thirty (30) years old and have a 30% water loss rate. The District's purpose has remained the same since the 1960's to provide adequate and safe drinking water for their rural residents.

"These dollars are important to the rural areas, such as Ralls County in Northeast MO, and the State of Missouri," said Kenny Hulshof, U.S. Congressman. "Not only are they vital to creating conditions for economic growth, but they also help better Missouri communities. I am grateful for the work of the USDA staff and I look forward to continuing our work on behalf of Missourians."

"This type of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Branum. "Special thanks are



RCEC Community Foundation: Front Row Rhonda Robison, RCEC Office Manager, Daniel Strode, Board President; Gregory Branum, Rural Development State Director, Kacky Garner, Senator's Talent's office, US Congressman Kenny Hulshof; Sharon Leake, Board Member; Shelia Foster Board Member.



Ralls County PWSD #1 (left to right) Frank Burch, Board Member; Keith Deaver, Board President; Kacky Garner, Senator Talent's office; US Congressman Kenny Hulshof; Martin Judlowe, Board Member; Gregory Branum, Rural Development State Director; Bob Ross, Alliance Water; and Michelle Lehenbauer, Board Member.

extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Christopher “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent, along with U.S. Representative Kenny Hulshof for making available federal monies for funding these kinds of projects that provide essential services for the community.”

Anyone seeking more information about the community facility and water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting the New London office at 17623 Hwy. 19, New London, MO 63459 or by calling (573) 985-7211 ext. 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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